

Under the editorship of the well-known naturalist Dr. Hermann Burmeister, at present Director of the Museum at Buenos Ayres, a periodical has been commenced, to which we naturally wish all possible success. The first number of the 'Anales del Museo Publico de Buenos Aires'—for the opportunity of seeing which we are indebted, among many other acts of friendship, to our predecessor Mr. P. L. Selater—contains only one ornithological paper. This is from the pen of the editor, and is "On the Humming-birds described by Don Felix de Azara," a group which is stated to be the least well worked out of any in that author's work. In 1847 Dr. Hartlaub published an index determining some of the species therein mentioned, but he was only able to identify two of the eleven Humming-birds to which Azara gave names. To ascertain exactly what these are is Dr. Burmeister's object; and the result of his researches is that he believes that only six species were known to Azara. These he refers as follows:—

No. 289 to *Agyrtria albiventris* (*Thaumatias albiventris*, Gould, v. pl. 301).

Nos. 290, 291 to *Hylocharis ruficollis* (*H. sapphirina*, Gould, v. pl. 342).

Nos. 292, 293, 294 to *Hylocharis flavifrons** (*Chlorostilbon phaethon*, Gould, v. pl. 354).

Nos. 295, 296 to *Lampornis mango* (Gould, ii. pl. 74).

Nos. 297, 299 to *Heliomaster angelæ* (*Calliperidia angelæ*, Gould, iv. pl. 263).

No. 298 remains a doubtful species.

XLI.—*Letters, Extracts from Correspondence, Notices, &c.*

WE have received the following letters addressed "To the Editor of 'The Ibis'":—

Fort Whipple, Arizona, May 29, 1865.

SIR,—* * * "Hobbies" are queer things, but then they are such a *thesaurus* of pleasure, and never do any harm, except a little in the way of boring friends when the hobbyist will, through want of tact, ride rough-shod over other folks. For my

* Referred to *Hylocharis bicolor* in the letterpress, but corrected as above in a manuscript note.

part, my enthusiasm runs so high, that sometimes as I stand alone in the wilderness, thousands of miles from home and friends, hot, tired, dirty, breathless with pursuit, but holding in my hand and gloating over some new or rare bird, I feel a sort of charitable pity for the rest of the poor world, who are not ornithologists, and have not the chance of pursuing the science in Arizona. The most disagreeable part of my life here is the the mails, or rather the want of them. How completely isolated I am can be imagined from the fact that I have received letters from London, Paris, Washington, and Santa Fé at the same time, and all written the same day! It takes as long for one's letters to come the last few hundred miles as the same number of thousand miles through regions where steam laughs at geographical distances. "Mail," in the abstract, is the same the world over, I suppose: in the concrete, however, it varies with circumstances. Here it means a couple of men, with as many donkeys, carrying the precious little packets on one side of huge leathern panniers, and bacon and beans on the other. Civilized mails come to grief sometimes by running off the track; our mails in a different way. Thus the last one, due a week ago, came in yesterday in a fragmentary condition. A hundred Apachés had attacked it in a cañon about twenty miles from here, killed one of the men, wounded the other badly, and stampeded the donkeys. We sent out a strong party, and they gathered up the fragments; nor were they the traditional "twelve basketsful,"—hardly twelve handfuls. If there were any letters for me among the lot, they are now out there among the *Artemisia*-bushes, to be stared at by the *Lepus callotis*, Wagl., and perhaps twisted into the nests of *Poospiza belli*, Cab., or *Oreoscoptes montanus*, Baird. So they will serve one sort of ornithological purpose after all! * * * Read Woodhouse's account of "Inscription Rock." It is a grand mass of Old Red Sandstone. I clambered to its top, like Woodhouse, without my gun; and there in airy circles round my head dashed the birds he called *Acanthylis saxatilis*. They are, without doubt, the species named by Prof. Baird *Panyptila melanoleuca*; for I saw many, then and subsequently, and often within a few feet of my head. They breed on the face of the high perpendicular

cliffs, gluing their nests to the sides. In the same places with them are to be seen the queer bottle-nests of *Hirundo lunifrons* and the plainer pockets of *H. horreorum*, while in the stratum of soil, usually to be found just below the edge of such cliffs, are the holes of *Cotyle*, making a cullender of the bank. *Herse thalassina*, which is very common here, eschews rocks, and is exclusively pinicoline, breeding in old Woodpeckers' holes in the dead tops and limbs of trees. Every nest I have found was on the under side of a limb. *Progne purpurea*, also very common here, is exclusively pinicoline too. A colony of them club together, and eject *Picus harrisi*, *Sphyrapicus nuchalis*, or *Melanerpes formicivorus*, as the case may be, from dead pine-tops, confiscate their homesteads, and twitter their sharp defiance from morning to night. I feel confident that *Chatura pelagica* was a breeder in cliffs and hollow trees before chimneys came into vogue; and if ever this region of lava and pines becomes one of bricks and mortar, *C. vauxi*, *Nephæcetes*, and *Panyptila* will become "household birds."

The last novelty that has turned up is a new *Empidonax*, another new one among the host of *Empidonaces difficiles* already on record! Possibly it may be a species described from Central America; but it is nothing like any northern one. It is considerably smaller than *E. minimus*—a veritable little pygmy, so that I thought it was a *Regulus* when I shot at it. In colour above, it is like any other species—none of them differ much; but below it is everywhere (including the wing-coverts) of a fine light buff or delicate tawny—neither the yellow of *E. flaviventris*, nor the whitish, ashy, or light olivaceous of *E. trailli*, *E. minimus*, *E. pusillus*, &c. I have distinguished it in my notes and letters as *E. pygmæus*.

To my list of Arizona birds that I have in a rather disjointed way already given [*vide antea*, pp. 157–165] I can add the following:—*Archibuteo ferrugineus*, common. *A. lagopus* (?), rare. *Buteo calurus* (?)—a large dark species with a red tail (but neither *B. borealis* nor *B. montanus*) and reddish breast, which I cannot possibly identify, being without books. *Helminthophaga*——, the species recently described [Qu. *H. virginia*, Baird, B. N. Am. Atlas, p. vii. *note*, and Rev. Am. B. p. 177?].

Empidonax pygmaeus, as mentioned above. *Icterus bullocki*; a *Pyranga*, probably *P. hepatica*, but possibly only *P. æstiva*. *Carpodacus frontalis*, very rare. *Molothrus pecoris*, common. *Mimus polyglottus*, var. *caudatus*. *Centurus uropygialis*, rare—from the Gila valley. And here I must stop to mention a singular fact. This same Gila Woodpecker does not live on trees at all, but on the giant-cactuses—the “Saguara” and the “Petahaya” of the natives, *Cereus giganteus* and *C. thurberi* of naturalists. It digs holes into the soft stems, and feeds on the fruit and on insects. To return: *Polioptila cærulea*, as well as the commoner *P. plumbea*; *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*; *Bernicla brenta*, *Pelecanus trachyrhynchus* (these water-birds from the Gila); *An-trostomus nuttalli*, and I think also *A. vociferus*, for I have distinctly heard the three syllables, “whip-poor-will,” as well as the two syllables, “poor-will.” I am not sure whether I included *Pyrocephalus rubineus* in my former list; I now have a specimen. I may find other birds before I leave; but my ten months have not been spent idly, and I fear there is little more to be got here. * * * *

Yours, &c.,

ELLIOTT COUES.

Takow, Formosa, June 1, 1865.

SIR,—I was obliged to pass over the close of last month for want of time. This letter must contain my report for April and May. On the 6th of April my men rushed in with a fine old cock *Euplocamus swinhoii*. It was captured in the hills some eighty miles off, and only died the day before it reached me. It was in very good condition, but had lost a few of the maroon scapular feathers. The tail culminates for half its length, and then divides right and left, like that of a common cock, but is not so much arched. It consists of seven graduated black feathers on either side, the largest about 2·5 inches longer than the next in succession, besides one central white feather exceeding the longest black one by 3·5 inches. It is thus divided into two independent halves, overlapping each other for a quarter of its length, which is altogether about 18 inches. The bird is fully adult, its spur being ·7 inch long, a little curved and somewhat pointed. The white crest is short, nor

have I ever seen it 2 inches long in the many specimens I have examined. The bill is yellowish, fading to horn-colour; the iris in the male reddish straw-colour, in the female brown. The bare face-skin is of a much deeper and richer red than in Mr. Gould's plate, and is much more developed. The smaller figure in that plate gives the best idea of its appearance. One lobe stands erect, high over the crown, another stretches back above the ear, a third extends well over the nostril, and the lower one forms a full-hanging wattle. I find, however, in live examples that the edge of the face-skin is very expansile, and that the bird has power to control its extension or contraction, somewhat similar, though in a less degree, to that which obtains in the Turkey. The legs are of as rich a carmine as in the Silver-Pheasant; the spur is nearly white, and the soles pale dingy buff. I hope before long to introduce this magnificent species to the general public at home, through the Gardens. One fine male has already gone forward, through Dr. Squire, by way of Calcutta; and I have sent several more of both sexes to Hong Kong for direct shipment. When disturbed in its cage, the bird utters a sound like "hah-sh," and ruffles up its feathers. It has also a chuckling note, chiefly uttered by the females. These are much more weakly than the cocks, and sooner succumb to fate. Among several pairs brought to me from the Tamsuy neighbourhood was one cock of a variety which the Chinese call *Aw-kak*. This has no white about it. The crest is black, the dorsal feathers are maroon, like the scapulars, and the middle rectrices are black. This specimen unfortunately escaped, and was killed and plucked by "outside Chinese" before I got hold of it again. I procured at Tamsuy a similar example; but it had more or less white on the parts where it is found in the normal form. This led me at the time to imagine that this peculiar plumage was only a stage towards maturity. According to the Chinese, the form without white is common enough. They distinguish it as a separate species, but also insist that there is a third one, which, as far as I can make out (for I have not yet seen it), would appear to be the bird in its first year's plumage. I must investigate the case further before I can speak of it with confidence.

In my last letter I advised you of the discovery of a Formosan *Chalcophaps*, and described the male [*anteà*, p. 357]. On the 18th April I procured a fine specimen of the female, which, compared with the male, might be taken for a distinct species. On the breast of this example are one or two white feathers, which may be due either to albinism or immaturity. I think, the former. It was proved to be a female by dissection. The crop was full of hard black seeds, like irregularly shaped peppercorns.

Chalcophaps formosana, ♀. Bill and legs not so brightly coloured as in the male. Forehead and an irregular streak over the eye cinereous. Crown, sides of neck, nape, and upper part of the back liver-brown, shot with a lovely purple-pink. Axillaries, edge of anterior primaries, and patch on under-quills cinnamon. Wing-coverts and tertials for the greater part of the length coppery green, or green reflecting fiery hues; some of the dorsal feathers tipped with the same, and, the brown bases being concealed, forming a nearly complete mantle. Lower part of the back blackish brown with two cross-bars (about $\cdot75$ inch apart) of finely mottled dingy white; the lower band edged with grey. Rump light chestnut-brown, bordered with blackish. Quills brown, those of the tail deeper in colour. The outer tail-feathers cinereous, with a grey-tipped broad black end; the next with the basal two-thirds rich chestnut, and a brownish extremity; the next with the chestnut less bright, and so on till the middle ones are reached, which are brown altogether. The under-parts pale russet, with the throat, cheeks, and belly paler than the rest. Length about 8 $\cdot75$ inches; wing 5 $\cdot62$ inches; tail 3 $\cdot5$ inches, rounded and wedged. First quill about $\cdot4$ inch shorter than the second, which is equal to the third and $\cdot2$ inch shorter than the fourth.

The other green Dove, *Treron formosæ*, was shot a few miles from here by a Chinese sportsman. It was a male; but it reached me plucked! You can imagine how wild I was. I hope, however, to get a male to describe before the warm season is over. At present the species rests on a female which I procured in 1861. From its rarity, it would appear to be a mountain bird. *Turtur humilis* is now the commonest Dove. *T. chinensis*, a

resident species, is nearly as common. *T. rupicola* would appear to visit Formosa only in the winter, as it also does South China at the same season. I have one alive. Its iris is reddish orange, with a deep purplish-brown outer rim. Its note is quite distinct from that of the European Turtle; and I cannot understand why the two should be associated as simple varieties of one another. Its notes might be syllabled "kurro-kurro-coó-coó," repeated two or three times. The notes of *T. chinensis* run "koo-koo-urh-coó," while those of *T. humilis* resemble the sound of tree-branches grating together in the wind. There is, besides, a bird known to Europeans resident in China as the "White Pescadore Dove." The common belief is that it is found wild on the Pescadores; but the statement that a peculiar species occurs on that treeless group is scarcely worth contradicting. It is pure white, with pinkish bill and legs, and a straw-brown eye. There is no doubt that the bird is a domesticated albino variety of a species which, from its note, I take to be *T. risorius*. I presume this Dove came into Chinese hands by way of the Straits of Malacca. * * *

On the 18th April I observed a fine long-tailed male of *Tchitrea principalis*. A similar specimen was brought to me a few days after, dead. It precisely corresponded with the bird which, in spring and autumn, touches at Amoy on its migration to and from Japan.

On the 23rd April, a male *Podiceps minor* was brought to me. It had the corners of its mouth yellow, and the entire breast blackish, exactly as in English specimens. There can be no further doubt of our bird being identical with the European. At the same time the sportsman handed me a Leaf-walker. This is new to the Formosan list, though, from its occurring in the Philippines and in China, there was, of course, no doubt that it would also occur here. This example was engaged, with several others, in walking on the water-plants in a large pond not far from here. It is in complete summer-plumage, but its tail is not quite fully grown:—

HYDROPHASIANUS CHIRURGUS, ♂. Bill and legs lead-colour washed in places with olive-yellow. Tail of twelve feathers, the

teral ones very short, the four middle long and subulate, one fitting into the groove of the other. Length 16·5 inches; wing 6·75 inches; tail 8·5 inches. This bird is considerably smaller than my specimens from the Himalayas; but it corresponds with them, feather for feather, with the exception of a black mottling on the under edge of the wing, which does not occur in any of three Himalayan examples I compared it with.

I have received a small box of birds from Consul Caine at Swatow. The most interesting were two males of the Chefoo or North China Red-legged Partridge. I have compared them with specimens of *Caccabis chukar* from the Himalayas, and find that the two are identical, except that the Chinese bird has a rather longer bill. I think we must therefore dispense with a new species on this occasion. The next in interest was a mutilated specimen of *Coturnix caineana*. The rest were the following common species:—*Otus brachyotus*, *Nycticorax griseus*, *Anthus agilis*, *Ruticilla aurora*, *Melophus melanicterus*, *Sturnus cineraceus*, *Petrocincla manilensis*, and *Halcyon smyrnensis*.

About the same time I received from Taiwan-foo a pair of Bamboo-Partridges (*Bambusicola sonorivox*). They are lighter in colour all over than Tamsuy specimens, have the wings more spotted with white, and in smaller blotches. The quills are less marked with brown, and show signs of youth, which, after all, may be the true cause of these differences.

From the mountains in this neighbourhood I have got a pair of *Oreoperdix crudigularis* (Ibis, 1864, p. 426), entirely similar to those from the Tamsuy mountains. The bright orange-red of the legs extended in these birds quite to the tip of the claws. My Tamsuy collector further brought me an egg of this species, dropped by a female which was shot. It is white and smooth, with a dingy cloudiness appearing as it were through the shell. In form it is strictly ovate, and measures 1·6 in. in length by 1·1 in. in breadth.

On the 14th May, on the hill-side, I flushed a Button-Quail, which by its peculiar manner showed that I had disturbed it either from its eggs or young. I looked about, and soon came across a young one, and shortly after three more concealed under some dead leaves. I hurried home, and, supplying my-

self with my gun, a cage, and some string, returned to the spot. I tied the young ones inside the cage, and, fastening a long string to the door, left a China-boy at the other end to watch for the bird. When I came back from my wanderings, I found the old one had been seen, but would not enter the cage. The young were uttering their cry, to which an angry purring sound replied from the neighbouring bushes, and out trotted the old bird, clucking like a hen, but in a lower note. It beat the sides of the basket-cage, but would not enter, and ran backwards and forwards to the bushes, calling for the chicks to follow. When my man tried to catch it in his hat, it shuffled away, seldom attempting to fly. It was then getting dark, and, rather than lose the bird, I shot it. It was the only parent in attendance on the chicks, but, curiously enough, on dissection it proved to be a male. Perhaps the female had been previously destroyed, or, what is more likely, she was hatching another brood; for the chicks had lost their down, and feathers like those of the adult were sprouting in all directions.

This is the bird I formerly referred (Ibis, 1863, p. 398) to *Turnix ocellata* (Scop.), but I had not then met with the adult. The bird from Amoy belongs to the same group as *T. maculosa*, and has been determined by Mr. Blyth as identical with his *T. blanfordi* from Moulmein. From Canton, in Capt. Blakiston's collection, I saw a *Turnix* belonging to the same group as *T. ocellata*; but, being an imperfect specimen, I could not with any certainty refer it to any of the numerous *conspicies* of that particular form. At Tamsuy I got a pair of adult birds, which I did not sufficiently examine, but I cannot help thinking that they were distinct from the Apes'-Hill bird. This, however, to my astonishment, I find to be allied to *T. maculosa*, but quite distinct from the Amoy form. It is at once to be distinguished by its strong bill; and the specimen being a male, and in adult plumage, I do not hesitate to recognize it as new :—

TURNIX ROSTRATA, sp. nov.

Bill approaching in form that of the genus *Mirafra*. General style of plumage similar to that of *T. maculosa* from Amoy. Upper parts brown, finely mottled with black; some of the

striations coalescing into broad black bars, with a few pale buff spots sparsely scattered. Crown with black spots and an ill-defined median line of pale buff spots. Scapulars the same as the back, with the side feathers tinged with red. Wing-coverts light yellowish-buff, clouded with pale brown; most of the feathers barred with long deep brown or black spots. Quills hair-brown, paler at the margin and towards the tip. The carpal quill of wing-coverts broadly edged with creamy-white. Edge of wing and outer quill of wing the same, the second less so. Tail soft, and hard to distinguish. Under wing-coverts pale brown. Throat, eyebrow, belly, and thighs nearly white, some of the feathers of the two first tipped with black. Cheeks nearly white, mottled with black. Breast, flanks, and vent deep rich buff; the lateral feathers of the two first paler and yellower, with deep brownish-black bars and spots. The mottling of the plumage in many places too intricate to describe. Iris pale yellow, nearly white. Eyelid black. Inside of mouth yellowish white, washed with inky. Bill yellowish-white, with a tinge of indigo, blackish on the nostrils, culmen, and tip. Legs, toes, and claws yellowish-white, washed with indigo. Length 6 inches; wing 3·5 inches; bill, from forehead, ·58 in., from gape ·75 in., height ·25 in.; tarsus 1 inch. Wing rounded, the first five quills equal and longest.

The gizzard of this specimen was very muscular, and contained chiefly shells of a species of *Cyclotus*, peculiar, so far as I know, to this neighbourhood. The tibial tendons not at all rigid, as in most *Gallinæ*. Testes of moderate size, but soft and watery. I have reason to think there is a second species of *Turnix* inhabiting the plains, which may prove more similar to the Tamsuy species.

Returning from this walk, I was attracted, by the loud chirping of a pair of *Drymæca extensicauda*, to a *Euphorbia*-bush (vulgarly called "Takow Grass," and the commonest growth on Apes' Hill), when out flew the fledged young. I knocked one down. Its bill was yellow, bright at the gape and inside the mouth, brownish on the culmen. Feathers round the eye and eyelid bright yellow. Iris deep hazel-brown. Legs, toes, and claws light flesh-colour.

On the 15th May I was watching some Flycatchers—*Myiagra azurea*. They open their tails like fans, and flit about from branch to branch. They are very noisy birds, and have a variety of notes, which they utter in quick succession, some of them very loudly. The Chinese name for them signifies “Mango-bird.”

May 18th, I received from the neighbouring mountains a pair of *Megalama nuchalis*, just like the Tamsuy mountaineer. A few days ago, while at Taiwan-foo, I saw a living *Poliornis* in the possession of a European there. It must have been *P. poliogenys*, as it was taken in Formosa; but it was uncommonly like a specimen of *P. teesa* that I have from the Himalayas.

For some two or three days past I had heard on the hills the note of a Cuckoo, which was like the two notes of *Cuculus canorus* run into one. On the 21st of May I procured a female. It is rather small, but I have otherwise little doubt that it is the bird referred to by me on a former occasion (*P. Z. S.*, 1863, pp. 264, 265) as a second form of *C. canorus*, which I think must now be raised to the rank of a species. This specimen is more broadly barred on the breast and sparsely on the axillaries than is the Common Cuckoo. Though a smaller bird, it has a comparatively larger bill. Its neck is barred all round; and hepatic patches occur on the wings. In proportions it approaches *C. himalayanus* of Jerdon (*B. Ind. i.* p. 323); but the wing of that species is 7 inches long, and its note described as quite different. In fact, Dr. Jerdon speaks of no Cuckoo having such a note as my bird. Two males were crying near the place where this female was shot. As I desire to confer on it a distinct title because of its different note, I cannot do better than call it

CUCULUS MONOSYLLABICUS, sp. nov.

To the particulars given above I may add that the iris is reddish brown, skin round the eye bright yellow, edge of eyelid black. Bill black, dingy yellowish-olive at the base. Gape and inside the mouth orange; legs fine orange-yellow, with brownish claws. Length nearly 12 inches; wing 7·75 inches; bill, from forehead, ·83 inch, from gape 1·08 inch. Tail 5·6 inches.

A female bird. The contents of the stomach were remains of beetles.

The same day I shot a female *Malacocercus taiwanus*. Its bill was dull ochreous yellow, browner on the culmen. Legs lighter and dingier; claws paler still. Stomach contained remains of grasshoppers.

I must conclude with a few words on an expedition I made, on the 28th May, to Apes' Hill Bluff after Eagles. This bluff, which is about 1100 feet above the sea, is a small plateau, cut up again and again by deep chasms and small shallow valleys, overgrown with grass and scrub, and difficult to traverse. The sea-face is visited by Eagles; and I fancy a pair or two nestle on its inaccessible cliffs. I failed on a former occasion to scale the front; I now attempted to take the fortress in rear. On my way I was amused by the Monkeys (*Macacus cyclopis*), who seem to possess almost human *savey*; and in one ravine I flushed a pair of Bamboo-Partridges; but to the face of the bluff I could not attain. It began to grow late, and, despairing of having my eyes cheered by the sight of the Eagles and Falcons I should probably have found had I reached the cliffs, I turned my steps backward. A Kite or two would occasionally hover over me, enticing a shot; but I was bent upon higher game. Suddenly, on a peak before me, I descried a tall dark bird, sitting erect. I walked carelessly on, and getting within distance let drive a cartridge at him. Over he toppled. I scrambled down the ravine at the imminent risk of my neck, forced through the bushes, and, throwing myself forward, seized by the wings what I felt confident was an eagle. Judge my mortification when, turning the gasping bird to the light, I found I held a Kite! Yea, verily, an ignoble *Milvus govinda*, in its dark first year's dress,—the transparency of the air and my excited imagination having magnified it into the dimensions of an Eagle.

I am, &c.,

ROBERT SWINHOE.

Bremen, Aug. 3, 1865.

SIR,—Perhaps you would like to publish in the next Number of the 'Ibis' a synonymical notice of some interest. The bird

lately described by Prof. Peters under the name of *Cichladusa arquata* (Monatsber. d. Berlin. Akad. Wissensch., 16th March, 1863) is my *Bradyornis spekii* (P. Z. S. 21st April, 1863, p. 105); and the former name, having been published about three weeks before the latter, will of course have the priority. The only species congeneric with this singular form is the *Crateropus guttatus* of Heuglin.

I am, &c.,

G. HARTLAUB.

August 15, 1865.

SIR,—On the 22nd of March I stated to you that I had received a male and female of *Accipiter gularis* from Formosa (*anteà*, p. 236). The bird which I took to be the male is, I still think, an undoubted example of that species; but the specimen which I took for its female proves, on further examination, to be an immature example of *Astur trivirgatus*, agreeing exactly with an Indian example of similar age.

In correcting this error, I must apologize to your readers for having allowed it to occur; but, except as regards this specimen, I can confirm the remarks contained in my letter of the 22nd of March.

This is the first time I recollect to have seen *Astur trivirgatus* from Formosa.

I am yours, &c.,

J. H. GURNEY.

SIR,—Being in Glasgow on the 22nd inst., I made inquiries at the Andersonian Museum concerning the specimen of Ross's Gull (*Larus rossi*), formerly in Mr. J. Sabine's collection (Ibis, 1865, p. 238). I regret to say that the bird is not to be found; and Dr. Scouler informs me that it has not been there since he superintended the museum. He fears that it may have been thrown away in ignorance of its value, if indeed it was included in Mr. Sabine's contribution. No list of that collection appears to have been kept, the information being in the form of labels attached to the birds themselves.

May I be allowed to add Subprovince 27 to the list of localities for *Parus palustris* in Mr. More's "Notes" (Ibis, 1865,

p. 120)? It breeds here regularly, and is by no means a rare species, although not so plentiful as *P. ater*.

I am, Sir,

Yours very obediently,

EDWARD R. ALSTON.

Stockbriggs, Lesmahagow, Lanarkshire,
25th August, 1865.

Zoological Museum, Turin,
September 7, 1865.

SIR,—In the magnificent collection of Count Turati, at Milan, I have seen a specimen of a beautiful species of *Æthopyga*, to which I propose to give the name of his lady, as a token of my great respect.

Neither this nor two other examples of the same species, which I have since seen in the splendid collection of M. Jules Verreaux at Paris, bear any indication of the precise locality which they inhabit; but of course it is India or the Indian islands. I am glad to say that M. Verreaux agrees with me in considering the species undescribed. It approaches very nearly some others of the same genus, especially *Æ. miles*, *Æ. vigorsi*, *Æ. siparaja*, *Æ. eupogon*, *Æ. chalcopogon*, and another, probably new, of which I have seen two examples in M. Verreaux's collection of Sun-birds.

ÆTHOPYGA LODOISIA, sp. nov.

Mas ad. rubro-sanguinea; pileo mystacibusque splendide cyaneis in violaceum vergentibus; tectricibus caudæ superioribus rectricumque pogoniis externis splendide violaceo-purpureis; loris nigris; colli antici striga pallide flava; macula frontali rubro-sanguinea; pectore rubro-coccineo, lineolis flavis vario; abdomine cinereo-griseo; tibiarum parte infima tectricibusque caudæ inferioribus pallide flavis; uropygio flavo-citrino; remigibus tectricibusque alarum majoribus fuscis, olivaceo limbatis; pogoniis internis rectricum nigricantibus; rostro pedibusque fuscis.

Long. tot. 0.105 mm.; alæ 0.049; caud. 0.055; rostri a fronte 0.015; tarsi 0.014.

Head, neck, back, shoulders, scapulars, lesser and middle wing-coverts sanguineous; a small triangular spot on the forehead and the eyebrow same as the back; lores black; middle of the crown and stripe on each side of the neck glossy violet-blue.

Upper tail-coverts and outer webs of the rectrices shining metallic violet; rump bright sulphur-yellow; throat, fore-neck, and breast bright scarlet-carmine; on the middle of the throat a yellow line, which on the breast divides into smaller lines intersecting the red. Abdomen ashy-grey, silvery on the sides; thighs and under tail-coverts lemon-yellow; wings brown, edged with olive; inner webs of the rectrices blackish; bill horny, pale beneath; tarsi brown.

I add a short statement of the principal differences between this new species and those to which it is most nearly allied.

Æ. miles (*Cinnyris goelpariensis*, Royle) and *Æ. vigorsi* have the crown of the head and upper tail-coverts shining metallic green, not violet. *Æ. siparaja* (*Nectarinia mysticalis*, Temm.) and *Æ. eupogon*, Cab., want the yellow rump. *Æ. chalcopogon*, Reich., has the crown metallic green (*stahlgrün*) and the upper tail-coverts steel-blue. And, lastly, an *Æthopyga* (sp. non descr.), from Menado, in M. Verreaux's collection, has the abdomen almost black.

I remain, &c.,

T. SALVADORI.

Feltwell Hall, Brandon,
September 1865.

SIR,—Some months ago I bought of Mr. Baker, the bird-stuffer at Cambridge, the skin of a Buzzard, which, on inquiry, I am informed was shot by J. McDonald, Feb. 26, 1863, at Kingussie, in Inverness-shire. From him it was purchased, with a lot of Common Buzzards and other birds, by Mr. Mansfield, the well-known dealer, who sold it to Mr. Baker. The skin has been seen by Mr. J. H. Gurney and Mr. P. L. Sclater, the latter of whom tells me that it is of a young *Buteo lineatus*, a North American bird, which, I believe, has not hitherto been killed in this country.

I am, &c.,

EDW. CLOUGH NEWCOME.

Mr. Sclater sends us the following extract from a letter received from Mr. C. J. Andersson, dated Damara-land, Jan. 4th, 1865:—

“In looking over the notes made by you and the late Mr.

Strickland on my first Damara Collection*, I find you were at a loss to know whether *Irrisor erythrorhynchus* and *I. senegalensis* were identical or distinct species. If you have not decided this point yet, I may perhaps help to throw some light on the subject. Thus in my Note Book I find the following remark:—

“ ‘ Nos. 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879. These four specimens were all killed out of one flock, consisting of five individuals, the last of which got away badly wounded. These four specimens form a most interesting series, as they exhibit all the variety of colour, spots on wings, curve of bill, extreme length, &c. &c., said to belong to both *I. erythrorhynchus* and *I. senegalensis*; and there can be no doubt but they are of the *same catch*. One specimen has the bill almost black, two have it more or less so, *i. e.* half-black and half-red, and the fourth, which I supposed to be the mature bird, has the bill quite red. All have the legs, toes, and insides of both mandibles red. In some the spots supposed to exist on the three first secondaries are present, and oval in shape, of a white colour; in others perhaps only one spot (the *red-billed* example has only *one*) is discernible. All four specimens exhibit distinctly the two kinds of curve seen in the outlines of the bill of this bird as depicted in the ‘Naturalist’s Library,’ vol. xii. p. 117.’ ”

“The specimens above mentioned are still in my possession, but unfortunately at the Cape, or I would give you a fuller description, or rather a description of each bird separately. Three out of the four specimens had all the indications of *immature* birds about them, whilst the parent bird was much larger, with a uniformly red bill, as had also the wounded bird which got away.

“*I. erythrorhynchus* is not uncommon in Damara-land and parts adjacent. It is always found in flocks, each flock being, apparently, a family. When they move from tree to tree (and their flight, if not disturbed, is seldom more extensive), they utter harsh garrulous notes.

“You remark on *Pelidna subarquata* that it is remarkable for the shortness of its bill; I mean as regards specimens received from this country. I have to state that the bill of this bird

* [Contributions to Ornithology, (1852) p. 154.—ED.]

varies very much in length, but that the *average length* of the *full-grown* specimen is 1 inch."

In a letter dated June 2, 1865, Dr. von Frantz, so well known for the numerous new species of Costa Rica birds discovered by him, writes as follows to Professor Baird respecting *Tetragonops frantzi*, described and figured in 'The Ibis' for 1864 (p. 371, Plate X.):—

"After much labour I have at length succeeded in obtaining another specimen of the new *Tetragonops*, and, indeed, from a new locality, the foot of Turrialba, near Birris or Cervantes. The bird is there called "*Galinilla*," because its cry resembles that of a chicken. It lives socially in flocks, and is said to be especially abundant in June."

At the recent Meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science at Birmingham a letter was read in Section D (Zoology and Botany), from Mr. Edward Newton, relating to a "Remarkable Discovery of Bones of *Didus* in the Island of Rodriguez." These bones were sent to that gentleman by Mr. George Jenner, the magistrate of Rodriguez, whom Mr. E. Newton had requested to carry on researches in the caves visited by him last year (*ante*, p. 152). Among the bones there were remains of a great many individuals, apparently all of one species, but of two sizes, the difference being probably owing to sex. The most plentiful bones were tibiae, of which there were one or two quite perfect, with the antero-proximal ends well preserved. There were also several very good femora and metatarsi, portions of three or more pelves, the anterior end of a coracoid, several humeri, an ulna, and two radii, and a phalanx of the middle toe. Of these the upper end of the tibia, the portions of the pelvis and of the coracoid, the ulna, radius, and phalanx are bones which appear not to have been found before, and their discovery is therefore a matter of very great interest. These specimens have since arrived in England, and being now in our hands we can confirm the par-

ticals above given. We shall take an early opportunity of exhibiting them at a Meeting of the Zoological Society; for certainly no such large series of the bones of any species of Dodo has ever before been collected. We need not, however, say more here on the subject, except to remark that an inspection of the specimens would seem to induce the opinion that after all the *Didus nazareus* of Mr. Bartlett and the *Pezophaps solitarius* of Strickland are only the opposite sexes of one and the same bird—a very singular fact when the great difference in the size of the specimens is taken into consideration. We are glad to say that, at the instance of Mr. P. L. Sclater, the British Association has voted a liberal sum of money to continue the researches thus commenced with so much promise.

At the same Meeting of the British Association the Committee on Zoological Nomenclature, which was appointed in 1862, presented a Report which recommended the adoption of a Code of Rules, differing in only one respect of any great importance from that formerly compiled by the late Mr. H. E. Strickland. This Report having been first discussed at some length in the Committee of the Section, was read in the Section, and the Code of Rules as recommended, being formally put to the Meeting, was unanimously adopted, and copies of it ordered to be printed for circulation among zoologists both at home and abroad. We shall probably have more to say on this subject hereafter.